under the Public Distribution System at half the normal prices to the families below the poverty line has been approved by the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes;

(c) whether it is a fact that the functioning of PDS in rural areas is very poor in majority of the States and moreover, the 10 kgs. of foodgrains offered is very small quantity compared to their monthly needs; and

(d) if so, how the genuine rural poor people are expected to benefit by this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Public Distribution System (PDS) is proposed to be streamlined on the following lines:—

(i) All families living Below the Poverty Line (BPL) shall be provided with 10 kgs. of foodgrains per month per family at about half the CIP.

(ii) Identification of population below poverty line shall be taken up by State Governments/UT Administrations on the basis of provisional estimates of below poverty line population worked out by the Planning Commission for 1993-94 adopting the methodology of the Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Late Prof. Lakdawala.

(iii) The issue of foodgrains for non-poor shall, however, continue on the basis of average annual lifting of foodgrains by the States/UTs for the last 10 years at the normal central issue price (CIP).

(iv) The State Governments/UT Administrations will have to ensure fool-proof identification of poor, delivery of foodgrains to Fair Price Shops (FPSs) for distribution to the poor in a transparent and accurate manner.

(v) Specially subsidised foodgrains may be issue to all beneficiaries under the Employment Assurance Scheme(EAS)/Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) at the rate of one kg. per man day.

(c) and (d) PDS is implemented under the Joint responsibility of Central and State Governments. Operational aspects including coverage of rural areas are within the administrative jurisdiction of State Governments/UT Administrations. As regard the quantum of foodgrains for distribution to the BPL families this depends on the procurement of food-grains and as per present indications, it is not possible to provide more than 10 kgs. per BPL family. It is also proposed to extend the scheme to the beneficiaries under the EAS/JRY Schemes by issuing 1 kg. of foodgrain per man day. The poorest of the poor can take advantage of this.

UF's Rice Scheme

117. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced a scheme known as the UF's Rice Scheme from the last Republic Day;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(c) whether the scheme is to be implemented in phases and in which States the scheme has been started?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved the scheme for streamlining the public distribution system (PDS) with focus on the poor.

(b) The details of the scheme broadly are as follows:

(i) All families living below poverty line shall be provided with 10 kgs. of foodgrains per month per family at about half the Central issue price (CIP)

(ii) Identification of population below poverty line shall be taken up by State Government on the basis of provisional estimates of below poverty line population worked out by the Planning Commission for 1993-94 adopting the methodology of the Expert Group under chairmanship of Late prof. Lakdawala.

(iii) The issue of foodgrains for non-poor shall, however, continue on the basis on the basis of average annual lifting of foodgrains by the State for the last 10 years at the normal CIP.

(vi) The State Governments will have to ensure all arrangements for fool-proof identification of poor, delivery of foodgrains to Fair Price Shops (FPSs) for distribution to the poor in a transparent and accurate manner.

(v) Specially subsidised foodgrains will be issued also to all beneficiaries under the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) at the rate of one kg. per man day.

(c) Actual issue of foodgrains at specially subsidised price for the below poverty line population will be made when the States/UTs have identified the below poverty line population and made satisfactory arrangement for issue of foodgrains to them. No State has so far completed the exercise.

118. SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN:
SHRI O.S. MANIAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of rice, kerosene and sugar supplied to Tamil Nadu, each month for public distribution from Central Pool;

(b) whether Government are aware of the shortage and non-supply of these items in different parts of the State; and

(c) whether Central Government has any proposal to set up monitoring agency to see that the central pool allocation is distributed to the needy by the State Government without any pilferage;

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) The quantities alloted each month to Tamil Nadu during 1996 under the Public Distribution System are furnished in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) PDS is implemented under the joint responsibility of Central and State Governments. Operational aspects of the System are within the jurisdiction of State Governments. State Governments have been directed to set up monitoring agencies and Fair Price Shop Level Vigilance Committees for monitoring the implementation of PDS.